

1 Samuel 14:1-23 - Thursday, January 23rd, 2014

- Chapter thirteen ended with a Philistine army so massive they numbered the sands of the seashore getting ready to attack the Israelites.
- This because, King Saul's son, Jonathan had launched an attack against one of the outpost's the Philistines had set up on Israel's land.
- Now, we begin chapter fourteen with the Israelites having no weapons, and they're left with only those men who didn't run and hide in fear.

(1) Now it happened one day that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistines' garrison that *is* on the other side." But he did not tell his father. (2) And Saul was sitting in the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which *is* in Migron. The people who *were* with him *were* about six hundred men. (3) Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD's priest in Shiloh, was wearing an ephod. But the people did not know that Jonathan had gone.

- These first three verses are interesting for a number of reasons chief of which is that Jonathan true to form has an unflinching fearlessness.
- Conversely, his father, King Saul, seems to be just the opposite as evidenced in two ways, the first of which is he's sitting on the outskirts.
- Secondly, his son Jonathan deems it necessary to withhold his strategy from his father, which seems to indicate that he wouldn't attack.

- Be that as it may, what's striking in these first three verses is the Holy Spirit deemed it necessary to have the narrative include such detail.

- More specifically, the detail of where Saul was sitting, how many people were with him and perhaps more striking why include their names?

- This begs the question of what is it that the Holy Spirit would have us to see in, and even more importantly, learn from, all of these details.

- You might find more but I found three lessons these three verses can teach us the first of which is, look at your situation vis-à-vis your God.

- Let me explain, Jonathan is looking at this powerful Philistine army through the lens of his all-powerful God, and not the other way around.

- This is what we'll see with Elisha when we get to 2nd Kings, where Elisha, like Jonathan here, is focused on God's army and not the enemy.

2 Kings 6:15-17 NIV When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. (16) "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." (17) And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- The second lesson the detail in the narrative teaches us is; it's impossible to please God without faith to step out, get up and get going.

- It's for this reason that we see such a contrast between him and his father, such that we see King Saul sitting, whereas Jonathan is going.

- It's been said; God won't move a parked car. It's not that He can't, it's just that He won't, which reminds me of a story about an elderly lady.

- One day an elderly lady was signaling to park her Cadillac in a parking spot a driver was vacating, and before she could, a man steals it.

- As he gets out of the car, he says to the elderly lady; "you can do that when you're young and fast." As you might imagine, she's infuriated.

- In her anger, she accelerates towards this man's car and proceeds to smash into it continually, until finally she's moved it onto the curb.

- Then, she parks her Cadillac in the spot, gets out of her car and says to this astonished man, "you can do THAT when your old and rich."

- The moral of the story is, God won't move a parked car, but elderly ladies who are rich and drive Cadillac's can and will, so be very careful.

- The third lesson the detail in the narrative teaches us is; God oftentimes puts us in an impossible predicament so only He gets the glory.

- Such is the case here with Jonathan, numerically, logically; there is no possible way that he and a small number of men could ever prevail.

- But God could and as such, God will and the reason God will is because He knows there's no way we could take the credit if we wanted to.

- I'm of the belief that this is why Jonathan didn't want anyone to know what he was doing, especially his own father as the King of Israel.

- I would suggest that Jonathan knew that the glory had departed from his own father, as evidenced by the mention of the name of Ichabod.

- The name is the nature, and the name Ichabod means, "The Glory Has Departed," and Jonathan himself would not touch the glory of God.

As one commentator aptly noted, "The people did not know that Jonathan was gone, indicates that Jonathan did not go over to the Philistine garrison out of a desire for personal glory. If that were his motive he would have told at least a few people that he went."

- We saw perhaps one of the best examples of only God getting the glory back when we were in Judges chapter seven concerning Gideon.

- I believe the reason that Gideon's 300 men didn't get down on their hands and knees and lap the water like a dog was that they couldn't.

- The reason they couldn't is because they were the lame, blind, and crippled, as it were, and as such, they had to cup the water to drink it.

- To me, this is a much better fit with the narrative, in that, God is doing everything and stopping at nothing to insure that He gets the glory.

- It just makes sense and stands to reason as Jon Courson says in his commentary, these 300 men were too fat and old to drink like a dog.

- If you really think about it, there's no way that these 300 men, whether they were too handicapped or too old and fat, could take the credit.

1 Corinthians 1:25-31 NIV (25) For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. (26) Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. (27) But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. (28) He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, (29) so that no one may boast before him. (30) It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. (31) Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

F.B. Meyer writes this about God choosing Jonathan for His glory; "God is ever on the outlook for believing souls, who will receive his power and grace on the one hand, and transmit them on the other. He chooses them, that by them he should make his mighty power known."

- We're going to do something different for the remainder of our time together tonight, this because I'm going to show you a 27-minute video.
- Unfortunately for our online church, we cannot publish this video on YouTube, as it would be unethical in violating the copyright restrictions.
- However, I do want to encourage everyone in both our church here, and our online church to purchase a copy of the DVD set for yourself.

- The title of it is, "Against All Odds - Israel Survives." I cannot even begin to tell you how much of a blessing this documentary series will be.
- There are a total of 6 DVD's and tonight I'm going to show you just one episode, which is episode 2 on Disc 1 titled, "Miracle at Michmash."
- It documents two miraculous victories about three thousand years apart at the exact location, the first of which is recorded in 1 Samuel 14.

- The second is recorded in the British War Journal's of World War 1 and, personal memoirs of English Brigadier Major Ian Gilbert in 1917.
- I'm hoping our online church is able to watch it before next Thursday, especially because of the absolutely stunning prophecy at the end.
- At the risk of needing to give a spoiler alert, I won't say anymore, but I will read verses four through twenty-three before we stop recording.

(4) Between the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistines' garrison, *there was* a sharp rock on one side and a sharp rock on the other side. And the name of one *was* Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. (5) The front of one faced northward opposite Michmash, and the other southward opposite Gibeah. (6) Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few." (7) So his armorbearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart." (8) Then Jonathan said, "Very well, let us cross over to *these* men, and we will show ourselves to them. (9) If they say thus to us, 'Wait until we come to you,' then we will stand still in our place and not go up to them. (10) But if they say thus, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up. For the LORD has delivered them into our hand, and this *will be* a sign to us." (11) So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, "Look, the Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden." (12) Then the men of the garrison called to Jonathan and his armorbearer, and said, "Come up to us, and we will show you something." Jonathan said to his armorbearer, "Come up after me, for the LORD has delivered them into the hand of Israel." (13) And Jonathan climbed up on his hands and knees with his armorbearer after him; and they fell before Jonathan. And as he came after him, his armorbearer killed them. (14) That first slaughter which Jonathan and his armorbearer made was about twenty men within about half an acre of land. (15) And there was trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and the raiders also trembled; and the earth quaked, so that it was a very great trembling. (16) Now the watchmen of Saul in Gibeath of Benjamin looked, and *there was* the multitude, melting away; and they went here and there. (17) Then Saul said to the people who *were* with him, "Now call the roll and see who has gone from us." And when they had called the roll, surprisingly, Jonathan and his armorbearer *were not there*. (18) And Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the ark of God here" (for at that time the ark of God was with the children of Israel). (19) Now it happened, while Saul talked to the priest, that the noise which *was* in the camp of the Philistines continued to increase; so Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand." (20) Then Saul and all the people who *were* with him assembled, and they went to the battle; and indeed every man's sword was against his neighbor, *and there was* very great confusion. (21) Moreover the Hebrews *who* were with the Philistines before that time, who went up with them into the camp *from the* surrounding *country*, they also joined the Israelites who *were* with Saul and Jonathan. (22) Likewise all the men of Israel who had hidden in the mountains of Ephraim, *when* they heard that the Philistines fled, they also followed hard after them in the battle. (23) So the LORD saved Israel that day, and the battle shifted to Beth Aven.